

32. A CRITICAL NOTE ON *RHUS JAVANICA* L.
(ANACARDIACEAE)

The taxon under reference was erected by Linnaeus in his Sp. Pl. 1: 265. 1753, based on Osbeck's collection from Java. But its locality was further rectified as China in his Sp. Pl. 1: 380. 1762 (ed. 2). The recent flora of Java (Backer and Bakhuizen 1965) does not include the taxon from Java as was previously stated by Linnaeus. De-candolle (1825) recognised two varieties under *R. semialata* Murr. (1) var. *osbeckii* DC. (with broadly winged petiole) based on Osbeck's specimen from China and Thun-berg's specimens from Japan and (2) var. *roxburghii* DC. (with narrowly winged or wingless petiole) based on Roxburgh's speci-men from N. E. Himalaya. Engler (1883) also supported the view expressed by De Candolle in regard to the two varietal taxa under *R. semialata* Murr. Engler further stres-sed on the extensive distribution of *R. semia-lata* Murr. var. *roxburghii* DC. from N. W. Himalaya to N. E. Himalaya and upto China and consequently reduced another species *R. chinensis* Miller as one of its synonyms. Hooker (1876) did not recognise any variety under *R. semialata* Murr. Rehder (1940) and Kitamura (1953) have established *R. chinen-sis* Miller as a separate species. Recently Hara (1954) has reduced *R. chinensis* Miller as a synonym of *R. javanica* L. which is the legiti-mate name of the plant having broadly wing-ed petiole.

The nomenclature, synonymy and distribu-tion of the two taxa-(1) with broadly winged petiole and (2) with narrowly winged or wing-

less petiole are given below:

(1) *Rhus javanica* L., Sp. Pl. 1: 380. 1762 (ed. 2); Hara Enum. Sperm. Jap. 3: 65. 1954; Hiroo Kanai in Hara's Fl. East. Himal.: 186. 1866 & 76. 1975. *R. chinensis* Miller, Gard. Dict. no. 7. 1768 (ed. 8); Rehder Man. Cult. Trees & Shrub: 543. 1940; Kitamura in Ki-hara's Fauna and flora Nep. Himal.: 173. 1953. *R. semialata* Murr., in Comm. Soc. Sci. Goett. 6: 27. t. 3. 1784. *R. semialata* Murr. var. *osbeckii* DC., Prodr. 2: 68. 1825; Engl. in DC. Mon. Plan. 4: 378. 1883.

Distribution: China, Japan.

(2) *R. javanica* L. var. *roxburghii* (DC.) D. Chandra, comb. nov. *R. semialata* Murr. var. *roxburghii* DC., Prodr. 2: 68. 1825. pp.; Engl. in DC. Mon. Phan. 4: 378. 1883. pp. *R. buc-kiamela* Roxb. (Hort. Beng.: 22. 1814 & Icon. n. 1228, nom. nud.), Fl. Ind. 2: 99. 1832. pp. *R. amela* D. Don, Prodr. Fl. Nep. 2: 248. 1825. pp. *R. chinensis* Miller, Engl. in DC. Mon. Phan. 4: 378. 1883 (as syn.) pp. *R. chinensis* Miller var. *roxburghii* (DC.) Reh-der, Man. Cult. Trees & Shrub: 543. 1940.

Distribution: India and China.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to the Director, Botanical Survey of India, Deputy Director, Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, for facilities and also thankful to Dr. R. B. Ghosh, Systematic Botanist, Central National Herbarium, for valuable instructions and encouragement.

DALI CHANDRA

CENTRAL NATIONAL HERBARIUM,
BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
INDIAN BOTANIC GARDEN,
HOWRAH-711 103,
May 16, 1978.